

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06575 222200Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-07 NRC-05 FEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 444

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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USEEC, VIENNA FOR IAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, EEC, PARM, IAEA

SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL JUNE 21, 1977:

NUCLEAR ISSUES

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 6073; (B) STATE 124488; (C) BRUSSELS
5614; (D) BRUSSELS 5965; (E) OTTAWA 2370; (F) BRUSSELS
6373

1. SUMMARY: THE JUNE 21 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL
DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR ISSUES CENTERED ON THREE ITEMS:
INFCEP, THE EURATOM/IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AND
EURATOM/CANADA NEGOTIATIONS. DETAILS ARE SET FORTH
BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. INFCEP

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06575 222200Z

THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED, BUT TOOK NO DECISIONS ON, THE
COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR EC PARTICIPATION IN INFCEP.
THE FILE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO COREPER. ACCORDING TO A
BELGIAN PERMREP OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDED THE COUNCIL SESSION
(VAN HOUTTE), DEBATE FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE PATTERNS. THE
FRENCH INSISTED THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THE EC HAS
ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE STUDY

AND EMPHASIZED THEIR VIEW THAT THESE ISSUES COMPRISE PART OF THE LARGER POLITICAL QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. HOWEVER, THEY STOPPED SHORT OF FLATLY DECLARING THAT THERE ARE NO MATTERS OF COMMUNITY COMPETENCE INVOLVED: THEY SAID THAT THE COMPETENCE QUESTION NEEDS FURTHER EXAMINATION. ACCORDING TO VAN HOUTTE, THE SMALLER MEMBER STATES (PARTICULARLY BELGIUM) TOOK AN OPPOSING VIEW, STRESSING THE NEED FOR AN EC ROLE. (ON THE OTHER HAND, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE DANES HAD ADVOCATED THAT EACH OF THE NINE BE REPRESENTED INDIVIDUALLY IN INFCEP AND THAT IRELAND HAD SUPPORTED THIS FORMULA.) VAN HOUTTE SAID THE COMMISSION ALSO COUNTERED THE FRENCH POSITION BY STATING THAT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WAS NOT THE MAIN ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM; THE SUBJECT OF INFCEP DISCUSSIONS IS THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY WHICH IS, AFTER ALL, THE HEART OF EURATOM. VAN HOUTTE TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT NUCLEAR QUESTIONS (INCLUDING PROLIFERATION AND INDUSTRIAL ISSUES) SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE JUNE 29-30 EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN LONDON. HE NOTED AS WELL THAT EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTERS THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A DECISION ON EC PARTICIPATION IN INFCEP BY NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER.

3. EURATOM/IAEA
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06575 222200Z

ACCORDING TO VAN HOUTTE, THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD TALK FURTHER WITH THE IAEA TO TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT DEADLOCK (REFTELS B, C STRESSED THAT NO SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THESE TALKS WERE ADOPTED AND THAT THE COMMISSION IS UNDER NO COMMITMENT TO REACH A COMPROMISE. COMMISSION OFFICIALS TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY WILLIAMS WOULD BE MEETING WITH IAEA OFFICIALS ON JULY 7. (COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION SUPERCEDES REFTTEL F AND HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY WILLIAMS' OFFICE.)

4. EURATOM/CANADA

VAN HOUTTE TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT MOST MEMBER STATES (LED BY THE GERMANS, FRENCH AND BELGIANS) WERE AGREED ON THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF CANADIAN "PRIOR CONSENT" TO TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS WITHIN THE EC FOR ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING (REFTEL E). THE UK PLEADED FOR FINDING A SUITABLE ARRANGEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CANADIAN URANIUM SUPPLIES. AT HIS POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCE, UK FOREIGN

SECRETARY OWEN, THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, STRESSED THAT NO
NEW NEGOTIATING MANDATE HAD BEEN ADOPTED BUT THAT THE
COMMISSION (BRUNNER) WOULD PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE
COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS.MORRIS

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